

From: Burkhard Daniel
To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: Microsoft Anti-Trust case

I do not think it's in the best interest of the public to settle the case out of court.

From my point of view, the suggestion made by Microsoft to set up a funds that sponsors schools in the purchase of software is a "back-door" approach.

Microsoft has nothing to lose from that but a lot to gain. Most schools benefiting from such a funds would (out of gratitude, or simply because Microsoft software is so widespread) purchase Microsoft software. Schools that had no software before now have Microsoft software, which only helps intensify Microsoft's almost-monopoly on software to a new (and promising) market.

It also seems that the change in the political climate (i.e. the election of President Bush) has had some impact on the devotion put behind the case by the DoJ, i.e. that was the one thing that made an out-of-court settlement an option at all (or so it seems to me).

Once started, I think political considerations should not be allowed to influence judicial decisions, and that's another reason why I think the case should be tried in court to its conclusion.

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Our lives are poems sung against the wind, with nothing but our voices to make a difference.